

Appl. No. 09/751,862
Amendment Dated March 4, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 stand in this application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21 and 25 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the standing claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 11-14, 16-23 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,442,548 (Balabine) in view of Day. Further, claims 3, 6-8, 10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balabine in view of Day and further in view of USPN 5,619,690 (Matsumani). In addition, claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balabine in view of Day, Matsumani and Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Although Applicant disagrees with the broad ground of rejections presented in the Office Action, Applicant has amended the independent claims in order to further prosecution on the merits, as well as correct certain informalities. Accordingly, removal of the obviousness rejections with respect to claims 1-26 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that claims 1-26 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

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The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

s/John F. Kacvinsky/s

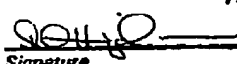
John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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